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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 60 NUMBER 24

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Argentina's Ministry of Industry and Commerce on May 5 removed several commodities, including cheese, from export licensing procedures. This is in line with previous action taken to liberalize Trade regulations.

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The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture announced that use of either fluid or powdered milk would be permitted in making bread starting May 20. This standard prewar practice is being resumed as result of the Dutch milk production's rapid recovery from the wartime low level.

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The Southern Rhodesian dollar allocation for imports during July 1 to December 31, 1950 includes $25,000 for dried milk.

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Canadian officials reported an outbreak of Newcastle disease in British Columbia. The poultry disease also has been identified in the State of Washington just across the border from the Canadian out-break.

(Continued on Page 602)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD SUGAR PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO SET NEW RECORD

World production of beet and cane sugar for the 1949-50 season is now estimated at 37,999,000 short tons (raw value), about 2 percent more than the previous record large crop of 37,287,000 tons (revised) produced in 1948-49 and 10 percent more than the 5-year (1935-39) average of 34,569,000 tons. The current estimate is 4 percent larger than output for 1949-50 indicated last fall, as the crops in Puerto Rico, Cuba and a number of countries in Europe and South America are turning out somewhat larger than earlier estimates.

World beet sugar production in 1949-50 is estimated at 11,584,000 short tons compared with 11,124,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 11,845,000 tons. Major increases over 1948-49 output occurred in Canada, the United States, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, the U.S.S.R. and Turkey, but these were offset in part by sizeable decreases in Bulgaria, France, Germany, and Spain.

World cane sugar production totaled 26,415,000 short tons in 1949-50 compared with 26,163,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 22,724,000 tons. The United States, Cuba and the British West Indies and Java show significant increases over last year's output but China and India show sizeable decreases.

In North and Central America, including the West Indies, current estimates show generally that the crops are turning out better than earlier expected. The 1949-50 output is now expected to total 11,850,000 short tons compared with 11,247,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 7,812,000 tons. The unusually high yield of sucrose per ton of cane in Cuba and the decision not to restrict production in Puerto Rico resulted in most of the improvement in the area estimate. Also some of the West Indies areas are producing a record large crop this year. Canada and the United States had larger beet sugar production than in 1948.

The concerted effort to increase beet sugar production in Europe in 1949 was rewarded with success in some countries. In Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland new recent record outputs were obtained. Production for Europe (excluding the U.S.S.R.) totaled 7,493,000 short tons compared with 7,454,000 tons in 1948-49, the wartime (1940-44) average of 6,835,000 tons and the prewar (1935-39) average of 7,370,000 tons. Unfavorable weather reduced production in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

In the U.S.S.R. sugar production in 1949-50 is estimated at 2,200,000 tons compared with 2,000,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 2,761,000 tons (revised).

SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39, 1940-44, and annual 1946-49 1/

Continent and country	Averages		1946	1947	1948	1949 2/
	1935-39	1940-44				
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA (Cane)						
British Honduras	1	1	1	1	2	2
Canada (beet)	76	99	105	89	104	121
Costa Rica	9	15	17	23	28	26
El Salvador	19	21	32	30	26	27
Guatemala	38	55	75	60	71	71
Honduras	2	1	2	2	2	6
Mexico	364	455	578	714	754	712
Nicaragua	9	15	17	20	22	23
Panama (incl. Canal Zone)	5	5	10	13	14	14
United States (beet)	1,518	1,451	1,523	1,835	1,370	1,564
United States (cane)	474	429	425	376	477	520
Antigua	25	22	25	14	20	30
Barbados	133	108	99	65	152	135
Cuba	3,183	3,686	6,448	6,675	5,763	6,100
Dominican Republic	491	494	512	465	526	500
Grenada	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guadeloupe	60	51	39	31	47	66
Haiti	44	47	50	46	49	52
Jamaica	119	175	191	216	282	315
Martinique	65	36	26	25	25	44
Puerto Rico	977	949	1,095	1,116	1,277	1,283
Trinidad and Tobago	148	102	123	130	178	174
Virgin Islands of the U.S.	6	4	3	4	4	4
St. Kitts	36	36	38	35	40	47
St. Lucia & St. Vincent	9	9	8	10	13	13
Total North America	7,812	8,267	11,443	11,996	11,247	11,850
EUROPE (Beet)						
Austria	196	128	27	44	58	76
Belgium	259	253	258	153	295	375
Bulgaria	24	52	37	21	82	60
Czechoslovakia	714	680	651	387	699	688
Denmark	257	232	221	230	271	330
Finland	13	6	6	9	26	27
France	1,059	636	842	728	1,073	967
Germany	2,122 3/	2,172 3/	1,102 3/	863 3/	1,431 3/	1,301
Hungary	136	197	74	169	268	292
Ireland	89	103	64	75	104	110
Italy	416	419	312	270	513	551
Netherlands	257	212	273	246	314	450
Poland and Danzig	548 3/	531 3/	469 3/	606 3/	765 3/	909
Rumania	99	81	35	91	124	127
Spain 4/	209	164	208	182	295	216
Sweden	340	318	272	268	322	321
Switzerland	12	24	24	26	30	29
United Kingdom	527	560	668	523	679	554
Yugoslavia	93	67	44	94	105	110
Total Europe (excl. U.S.S.R.)	7,370	6,835	5,587	4,985	7,454	7,493
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 5/	2,761	1,283	775	1,700	2,000	2,200

SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries, averages 1935-39, 1940-44, and annual 1946-49 1/

Continent and country	Averages		1946	1947	1948	1949 2/
	1935-39	1940-44				
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
ASIA (Cane)						
Iran (beet)	21	27	40	63	43	34
Turkey (beet)	77	103	117	118	144	165
Burma 6/	113	98	86	95	88	82
China	438	402	369	380	400	300
Manchuria (beet)	14	25	29	29	29	29
Pakistan 7/	799	797	954	989	1,139	1,159
India 7/	5,369	5,154	5,503	5,901	5,592	5,492
Japan 8/	167	134	16	24	21	28
Formosa	1,202	921	35	296	696	675
French Indochina 7/	76	79	6	15	17	7
Java and Madura 9/	1,447	953	25	100	276	360
Philippine Islands 10/	1,107	438	132	436	765	755
Total Asia (excl. U.S.S.R.)	10,830	9,131	7,312	8,446	9,210	9,086
SOUTH AMERICA (Cane)						
Argentina	480	480	699	668	623	605
Brazil	1,159	1,387	1,633	1,913	1,966	1,900
British Guiana	209	180	185	194	195	220
Colombia	47	79	97	127	162	187
Ecuador	24	32	39	40	48	54
Paraguay	7	13	21	18	14	19
Peru	448	477	476	549	529	550
Surinam	19	10	4	6	5	8
Uruguay (beet)	2	2	2	1	2	4
Venezuela	19	34	32	38	38	45
Total South America	2,414	2,694	3,188	3,554	3,582	3,592
AFRICA (Cane)						
Belgian Congo	14	17	16	18	18	20
Kenya	(	13	7	12	15	13
Tanganyika	(63	9	9	9	7	8
Uganda	(	55	55	68	76	65
Egypt	167	183	216	245	210	198
Madagascar	13	13	14	8	13	16
Madeira Islands & Azores	9	5	7	8	8	8
Mauritius	321	330	320	386	432	459
Mozambique	79	66	82	89	88	84
Angola	38	54	50	49	43	47
Reunion	92	60	75	98	86	118
Union of South Africa	498	550	475	512	608	561
Total Africa	1,294	1,355	1,326	1,502	1,604	1,597
OCEANIA (Cane)						
Australia	894	761	618	678	1,056	1,050
Fiji	143	115	131	157	149	146
Hawaiian Islands	982	911	872	835	985	985
Japanese Mandated Islands	69	30	0	0	0	0
Total Oceania	2,088	1,817	1,621	1,670	2,190	2,181
Total (beet)	11,845	9,847	8,163	8,800	11,124	11,584
Total (cane)	22,724	21,535	23,089	25,053	26,163	26,415
World total (beet and cane)	34,569	31,382	31,252	33,853	37,287	37,999

1/ Years shown are for crop years; generally the harvesting season begins in the fall months of the year shown or in the early months of the following year, except in certain cane-sugar-producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere, such as Australia, Argentina, Mauritius, Union of South Africa, etc., where the season begins in May or June of the year shown. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Data not comparable with previous years because of boundary changes. 4/ Includes a small quantity of cane sugar. 5/ Includes Latvia and Lithuania. 6/ Includes centrifugal sugar and cane and palm jaggery. 7/ Data are in terms of gur, a low grade of brown sugar. 8/ Includes cane and beet sugar. 9/ Data for Java are for the calendar years following the years shown. 10/ Includes centrifugal and muscovado sugar.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to prewar boundaries except as noted.

In Asia it appears that the 1949-50 sugar output will be about 9,086,000 short tons compared with 9,210,000 short tons produced in 1948-49, and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 10,830,000. Production in India, China, Formosa, and the Philippines is expected to be smaller than last year. Moderate increases in Java, Pakistan and Turkey are indicated.

Sugar production in South America as a whole is expected to total 3,592,000 short tons in 1949-50 compared with 3,582,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 2,414,000 tons. Decreases in Brazil and Argentina about offset slight increases in most of the other countries.

Sugar production in Africa and adjacent islands is forecast at 1,597,000 short tons in 1949-50 or about the same as in 1948-49, and compares with the 5-year (1935-39) average of 1,294,000 tons. Slight increases in Madagascar, Mauritius, Angola, and Reunion are about offset by decreases in British East Africa, Egypt and the Union of South Africa.

Not much change is indicated in the sugar output for Oceania, where the 1949-50 output totals 2,181,000 tons compared with 2,190,000 tons in 1948-49 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 2,088,000 tons.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Gustave Burmeister, and Constance Farnworth.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE OUTPUT INCREASED DURING 1949 1/

Total butter and cheese output in principal producing countries increased considerably during 1949. Milk production in practically all countries gained during the year, making available larger quantities for these factory products as the current effective demand for fluid milk, even in European countries, where production was severely curtailed because of the war, is quite well supplied, according to information assembled by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Though regulations concerning the production and marketing of butter and cheese have been relaxed, a few countries still maintain quite rigid controls and many countries are encouraging output by regulating prices paid to dairymen.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

BUTTER: Preliminary estimate of production in specified countries in 1949, with comparisons

Country	Average 1934-38		1948		1949	
	Factory	Total	Factory	Total	Factory	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	1/ 252	1/ 348	286	350	279	334
United States	1,673	2,178	1,210	1,509	1,409	1,692
Cuba	1/ 4	1/ 4	3	3	3	3
EUROPE						
Austria	-	2/3/ 51	-	3/ 47	-	3/ 48
Belgium	4/ 46	4/ 156	-	137	-	3/ 149
Czechoslovakia	5/6/ 27	-	50	-	67	-
Denmark	401	401	267	267	344	344
Finland	7/ 69	3/7/ 121	43	3/ 67	3/ 53	3/ 77
France	8/ 220	3/8/ 529	-	3/ 380	-	3/ 430
Germany, Western	-	661	-	3/ 525	-	3/ 605
Greece 9/	-	13	-	9	-	6
Ireland	89	149	64	3/ 109	77	3/ 122
Italy	-	111	-	3/ 88	-	3/ 110
Luxembourg	6	6	6	6	7	7
Netherlands	10/ 230	10/ 239	156	156	185	185
Norway	25	3/ 46	20	3/ 33	24	3/ 37
Sweden	151	186	198	212	216	229
Switzerland 11/	-	58	-	31	-	3/ 35
United Kingdom	10/ 54	10/ 101	19	3/ 42	24	3/ 45
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	66	-	3/ 75	-	3/ 66	-
Brazil	4/ 51	4/ 72	-	-	-	-
AFRICA						
Union of South Africa	12/ 28	12/ 41	48	3/ 61	46	3/ 58
OCEANIA						
Australia	13/ 415	13/ 437	355	2/ 366	378	2/ 389
New Zealand	13/14/ 358	13/14/ 376	342	2/ 353	394	2/ 407
Estimated world total 15/	-	9,600	-	7,300	-	7,900

1/ Averages for years 1935-38. 2/ Averages for years 1934-37. 3/ Estimated. 4/ Averages for years 1936-38. 5/ Averages for years 1933-36. 6/ Includes farm butter delivered to creameries. 7/ Averages for years 1936-39. 8/ Year 1937 only. 9/ Butter made from the milk of cattle, buffalos, sheep and goats. 10/ Year 1939 only. 11/ Butter made from the milk of cattle and goats. 12/ Production year beginning September 1. 13/ Production year beginning July 1. 14/ One year, 1937-38 only. 15/ Includes product weight of ghee in those countries where ghee production is common, especially India, Turkey, Egypt and other Middle and Far Eastern countries.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information. June 12, 1950.

CHEESE: Preliminary estimate of production in specified countries in 1949, with comparisons

Country	Average 1934-38		1948		1949	
	Factory	Total	Factory	Total	Factory	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	1/ 125	1/ 126	94	95	118	119
United States	643	643	1,094	1,094	1,190	1,190
Cuba	2/ 3	2/ 6	7	3/ 12	5	3/ 10
EUROPE						
Austria	-	4/ 69	9	3/ 11	17	3/ 19
Belgium	-	4/ 17	-	3/ 7	-	8
Czechoslovakia	5/ 55	-	24	-	31	-
Denmark	69	69	123	123	136	136
Finland	6/ 23	-	16	-	3/ 23	-
France 7/	2/ 365	2/3/ 584	-	3/ 440	-	3/ 540
Greece 8/	-	129	-	85	-	58
Ireland	-	9/ 4	-	3/ 6	-	3/ 7
Italy 10/	-	524	-	3/ 430	-	3/ 485
Luxembourg	-	1	-	1	-	-
Netherlands	3/ 200	267	177	213	238	279
Norway 11/	39	3/ 50	30	3/ 37	46	3/ 53
Sweden	71	71	114	114	144	144
Switzerland 11/	-	112	-	111	-	3/ 118
United Kingdom 12/	81	109	55	57	69	73
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	68	-	3/ 176	-	3/ 165	-
Brazil	9/ 59	9/ 92	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	2/ 11	-	-	-	3/ 20
AFRICA						
Union of South Africa	13/ 10	13/ 11	-	19	-	17
OCEANIA						
Australia	14/ 48	14/ 49	93	3/ 94	101	3/ 102
New Zealand	14/ 211	14/ 211	204	204	233	233

1/ Year 1939 only. 2/ Year 1937 only. 3/ Estimated. 4/ Averages for years 1934-37. 5/ Averages for years 1933-36. 6/ Averages for years 1936-39. 7/ Made from the milk of cattle, sheep and goats. 8/ Made from the milk of cattle, buffalos, sheep and goats. 9/ Averages for the years 1936-38. 10/ Made from the milk of cattle, sheep and goats. 11/ Made from the milk of cattle and goats. 12/ Excludes the output of producers outside the milk marketing scheme. 13/ Production year beginning September 1. 14/ Production year beginning July 1.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information. June 12, 1950.

World production of butter now is estimated at about 7,900 million pounds. This is approximately 8 percent larger than a year earlier, but still only about 82 percent of prewar. Forecasts indicate the output for 1950 will approximate at least 90 percent of prewar. The largest increase in butter production during 1949 occurred in the United States which manufactures at least 3 times as much as any other reporting country. In 1949, United States production was about 77 percent of prewar. Other countries making important gains were Denmark, the Netherlands, France, New Zealand and Australia of which all but France are the major suppliers of butter for export. Gains of around 9 percent during 1949 over 1948, were common among European countries. Modest advances were made by most countries in other parts of the world as significant decreases occurred only in Canada, Argentina, and the Union of South Africa. New Zealand, Sweden and the Union of South Africa are the only relatively important countries reporting butter production in excess of prewar.

Production of cheese in reporting countries is estimated to have increased about 15 percent during 1949 over 1948 and is now approximately 20 percent above the prewar output. There is growing interest in the manufacture of cheese as a market for whole milk. It must be remembered, however, that the output of cheese requires only about one-fourth the milk equivalent utilized for butter production.

European countries, a number of which are above prewar levels, are making the largest gains in the manufacture of cheese. Countries making large gains are France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden. A slight decline in production occurred in the output of the United States, Argentina and the Union of South Africa. In the two last named countries the decline was caused by adverse weather and limited availability of pastures and feed.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Floyd E. Davis, Charles C. Wilson, Jr., and Stanley Mehr.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

WESTERN GERMANY'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION HIGHER

Western Germany's 1949 harvest of leaf tobacco is estimated at 38 percent above the 1948 crop, according to the American Consulate in Bremen. Imports of leaf in 1949 were over 7 times the 1948 level. Current consumption of manufactured tobacco products is sharply above the low levels of the immediate postwar years.

The country's 1949 production of leaf on a farm sales weight basis is estimated at 44.0 million pounds from 23,280 acres, compared with 32.0 million pounds from 21,500 acres in 1948. The 1949 crop is reported to consist largely of heavy, thick leaves of high nicotine content and is generally considered of rather poor quality. Most of the tobacco grown in Western Germany is fermented naturally and thus the 1949 crop will not be available for manufacturing purposes before August or September, 1950. It is expected that about 31,500 acres will be planted to tobacco in 1950. If normal yields are obtained a crop of about 49.0 million pounds should be harvested.

Leaf tobacco freed from Customs bond and made available to manufacturers for further processing in 1949 totaled 98.6 million pounds. This compares with imports of only 13.8 million pounds in 1948. The United States supplied 62.4 million pounds, or 63 percent of the 1949 total. Turkey was the second most important source of imported leaf in 1949, supplying 16.5 million pounds, or 17 percent of the total. Imports from Greece, the third most important source of supply, totaled 8.0 million pounds in 1949. Other important sources of leaf include Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Syria.

Leaf used in the manufacture of tobacco products in Western Germany in 1949 totaled 116.5 million pounds. This compares with an estimate of only 50.0 million pounds in 1948 and even less in prior postwar years. Of a total of 116.5 million pounds in 1949, the amount of leaf used in the manufacture of various tobacco products was as follows: Cigarettes, 51.7 million pounds; cigars, 31.1 million pounds; smoking tobacco, 32.5 million pounds; chewing tobacco, 950,000 pounds; and snuff, 296,000 pounds. It is estimated that 57.8 million pounds, or about 50 percent of the total leaf used was of United States origin. United States leaf is estimated to have represented 58 percent of the leaf used in cigarettes, 27 percent in cigars and 58 percent in other products. The United States leaf used consisted of 39.0 million pounds of flue-cured, 8.6 million pounds of Burley, and 10.2 million pounds of other types.

GREECE'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS INCREASE

Greece's 1949 production of leaf tobacco is placed at 42 percent above the 1948 harvest, the American Embassy in Athens reports. Leaf exports in 1949 were 57 percent above the 1948 level.

The 1949 crop is estimated by the Hellenic Tobacco Board at 114.8 million pounds from 199,108 acres, compared with 80.7 million pounds from 177,168 acres in 1948 and 103.9 million pounds from 194,045 acres in 1947. The 1949 yield per acre of 576 pounds was 27 percent above the 1948 yield of 455 pounds and 11 percent above the 1947 yield of 536 pounds. The increase in yield per acre in 1949 is reported to have been made at some expense in quality. According to trade estimates, the 1949 crop consisted of 38 percent American grade leaf, 54 percent Tsikindi or European grade and 8 percent Kapa or low-grade leaf. This compares with estimates for the 1948 crop of 40 percent American grade, 52 percent European grade and 8 percent low-grade leaf.

Leaf exports in 1949 totaled 62.6 million pounds, compared with 39.8 million in 1948 and 32.1 million in 1947. The 1949 exports were the largest since 1940 but due to lower production during the war and postwar years, they were still only 64 percent of the prewar, 1935-39, average of 97.7 million pounds. The United States was the most important outlet for Greek leaf in 1949, taking 14.7 million pounds, or about 23 percent of Greece's total leaf exports. Germany, the most important prewar export market, was the second most important outlet in 1949, taking 9.9 million pounds. This compares with prewar, 1935-39, average annual exports to Germany of about 48.0 million pounds. France, the third most important export outlet in 1949 took 9.5 million pounds, or 15 percent of the total. Other countries taking substantial quantities of leaf in 1949 include the United Kingdom, Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, and Egypt.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND PRICES HIGHER

Southern Rhodesia's 1949-50 production of flue-cured leaf is estimated at almost 25 percent above the 1948-49 harvest, according to the American Embassy in Pretoria. Auction prices for the 1949-50 crop, which is now being marketed, are well above the 1948-49 average.

The country's 1949-50 production of flue-cured leaf is unofficially estimated at 102.5 million pounds from 154,000 acres, compared with 82.4 million pounds from 126,000 acres in 1948-49 and 75.4 million pounds from 112,600 acres in 1947-48. The increase in production in 1949-50 is due to the expansion in acreage planted to tobacco and to more favorable weather during the growing season. As was the case during the 1948-49 season, this year's crop is subject to export control and the percentages allocated to each of the various markets are as follows: United Kingdom, 66.7 percent; Local Markets, 5.1 percent; Australia, 6.5 percent; South Africa, 3.0 percent; Other Preferential Markets, 9.3 percent; and Non-preferential Markets, 9.4 percent.

Auction sales for the 1949-50 flue-cured crop opened in Salisbury on April 12. The average price for leaf sold on the first day was 41.22 pence per pound, compared with 38.40 pence per pound for the same day last year. At the devalued rate of exchange, these prices would be U. S. 48.1 cents and U. S. 44.8 cents per pound respectively. Most of the 1948-49 crop was sold, however, before the devaluation of sterling in September 1949. Later reports indicate that sales for the 1949-50 crop are averaging well above 40.00 pence per pound. This contrasts with the 1948-49 crop average of 31.87 pence per pound. If prices follow their normal seasonal pattern some decline can be expected during the latter part of the auction season.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

CANADA-U. K. WHEAT CONTRACT NOT RENEWED

The 4-year wheat contract between Canada and the United Kingdom will not be renewed on its expiration July 31, according to announcement by Canada's Minister of Trade and Commerce. Following that date, Canada's wheat sales to the United Kingdom will be made within the framework of the International Wheat Agreement.

Under the 4-year contract Canada sold 600 million bushels of wheat including flour in grain equivalent, 160 million bushels for each of the first 2 years and 140 million bushels for each of the last 2 seasons. Actual deliveries under the bilateral agreement for the year ended July 31, 1950 are expected to be only 128 million bushels, however, with the remaining 12 million bushels to be delivered later at the contract price. That amount was held back to provide dollar exchange for United Kingdom purchases of Canadian bacon and lumber.

Prices paid during the life of the contract, exclusive of carrying charges, were $1.55 per bushel during 1946-47 and 1947-48. During the next 2 years, the basic price was $2.00 per bushel. All prices were basis No. 1 Northern in store Ft. William/Port Arthur, Vancouver or Churchill, in Canadian currency. Total payment under the contract amounted to about 1 billion Canadian dollars.

The Minister said that the United Kingdom Government had made it clear that a large proportion of its total 1950-51 requirements are expected to come from Canada. Purchases for the coming year are expected to be from 100 million to 120 million bushels including the unshipped part of the 1949-50 contract. Through May of the current (1949-50) marketing season the United Kingdom had purchased under the International Wheat Agreement approximately 135 million bushels from Canada (including quantities taken under the bilateral agreement), 21 million from Australia, and 18 million from the United States.

ITALIAN GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

The outlook for the 1950 grain crop in Italy continues very good, and present prospects point to a wheat crop of about 295 million bushels if favorable conditions continue. A harvest that size would be a near record and about 7 percent larger than the good 1949 outturn, privately estimated at 275 million bushels.

In addition to increased wheat production in the current season, preliminary official forecasts show a considerable increase in the crop of oats and some increase in barley and rye, compared with 1949 harvests. Oats production declined sharply last year and the total outturn was only about 80 percent of the 1935-39 average. The barley crop was about 10 percent above that average and rye 10 percent below.

Moisture conditions are favorable in the main corn area, and if growing conditions continue favorable an outturn of about 120 million bushels seems probable. That would be above average and about 15 percent larger than the 1949 corn crop, privately placed at 106 million bushels.

The Italian Government recently announced that the quota collection system will be continued this year as a price-support measure. Both the collection quotas and producer prices are to be maintained at last year's level. Wheat was acquired under the compulsory delivery system last year at basic prices ranging from $2.72 to $3.27 per bushel, according to regions and types of wheat. Amounts above those deliveries were free for trading on the open market.

Following the good 1949 harvest, imports of wheat and wheat products declined significantly, totaling about 27 million bushels during the 9 months ended March, 1950 compared with about 63 million bushels for the comparable period of 1948-49. Of the total imports for the 9 months ended March, 1950, about 500,000 bushels or 18 percent came from the United States.

ECUADOR PRODUCES LESS RICE [1]

The 1950 rice harvest of Ecuador is expected to approximate 230 million pounds of rough rice, according to a preliminary forecast. This is a reduction of 143 million pounds from the 373 million pounds in the year before, and compares with the prewar annual average (1936-40) of

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[1] A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

155 million pounds. Growers planted a smaller acreage than in the year before, but drought in the rice regions and floods resulting from the heavy rains in the highlands were of greater influence in causing the decline.

Rice exports during the first quarter of 1950 totaled 26 million pounds compared with 3 million in the corresponding period of 1949. The first important sales were 28 million pounds to Venezuela in January and February, for future delivery with the largest lots at prices ranging from $6.41 to $7.05 per 100 pounds, cost and freight, to Venezuela. Eleven million pounds were sold to Peru in March for April delivery at $5.89 per 100 pounds f.o.b. Guayaquil. About 23 million pounds additional for Peru were being negotiated, and were subsequently closed at $5.90 f.o.b. Guayaquil.

ECUADOR: Rice exports by country of destination, January-March 1950, with comparisons

Country of destination	Average 1937-41	1947	1948	1949 1/	January-March 1/	
					1949	1950
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cuba	2	12	25	1	1	0
Peru	13	0	10	0	0	2/
Venezuela	6	49	12	14	2	18
Colombia	4	13	2	2/	0	0
Panama	2	4	7	0	0	2/
Jamaica	0	7	0	3	0	5
Philippines	0	0	45	41	0	0
India	0	38	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	15	6	0	0
Dominican Republic	0	5	5	0	0	0
Others	4	11	18	3	2/	3
Total	31	139	139	68	3	26

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official sources and Consular reports.

As only a small part of unsold stocks is considered of export grade, rice on hand will be used as far as possible to supply domestic needs until 1951, thus freeing a large portion of the new crops for export. Exportable supplies from old-crop stocks, estimated at about 20 million pounds, together with 120 million pounds from the current harvest, would mean a total of 140 million pounds available for export during the 1950-51 season (May-April).

U.S. RICE EXPORTS IN APRIL LARGELY TO CUBA

United States rice exports in April totaled 299,000 bags (100 pounds milled), of which 218,000 bags, or nearly 75 percent, were shipped to Cuba. Deliveries to Europe declined perceptibly, amounting to only 11,000 bags compared with the previous monthly average of 65,000 bags during the season. Other exports, except about 1,000 bags each to Arabia and Japan, were in the Western Hemisphere, primarily to Canada and Venezuela.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries, April 1950, with comparisons 1/
(100 pound bags)

Continent and country	August-July		August-April 2/		April 2/	
	1937-38 to 1941-42	1948-49	1948-49	1949-50	1949	1950
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Switzerland....	41	49	12	74	2	3
Austria........	3/	222	111	47	26	0
Greece	64	205	170	114	90	1
Belgium and Luxembourg...	66	75	51	243	28	6
Other Europe...	257	43	40	45	0	1
Total Europe.	428	594	384	523	146	11
Cuba...........	2,750	5,223	4,349	4,544	158	218
Canada.........	194	454	38	403	62	21
Venezuela......	20	148	13	163	4	20
Br. West Indies	4/	136	71	116	3	4/
Philippines....	4/	1,256	256	18	256	0
China..........	5/	811	656	0	508	0
Indonesia......	5/	886	886	1,732	0	0
Japan..........	5/	19	24	437	4/	4/
Other countries	190	407	707	393	33	29
Total........	3,582	9,934	7,384	8,329	1,170	299

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified. 4/ Less than 500 bags. 5/ If any, included in "Other countries".

Bureau of the Census.

Exports during the August-April period of 1949-50 greatly exceeded the corresponding months of a year earlier, totaling 8,329,000 bags as against 7,384,000. Monthly deliveries so far during the season are recorded as follows (1,000 bags): August, 40; September, 63; October, 137;

November, 109; December, 201; January, 187; February, 41, and March, 25. Of the August-April exports, 55 percent was shipped to Cuba, 21 percent to Indonesia, 6 percent to European countries, 5 percent each to Canada and Japan, and 8 percent to other countries.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

BRAZIL'S 1949 CACAO EXPORTS NEAR PEAK

Brazil's 1949 cacao exports of 291.5 million pounds were the second highest in its history, exceeded only by 1941 cacao exports of 293.1 million pounds, according to the American Consulate in Bahia. This represents an increase of about 85 percent above 1948 exports of 158.0 million pounds and is substantially higher than 1947 exports of 218.3 million pounds or annual average prewar (1935-39) exports of 264.0 million pounds.

While the quantity of cacao beans exported from Brazil in 1949 increased about 85 percent over 1948, the total value decreased by about 10 percent from 56.5 million dollars in 1948 to 51.1 million dollars in 1949. The total value of the record 1941 cacao exports amounted to 16.7 million dollars. The average value per pound of Brazil cacao exports rose from 5.7 cents in 1941 to 35.8 cents in 1948 and dropped to 17.5 cents in 1949. Cacao beans accounted for 4.7 percent of the value of Brazil's total exports in 1949, compared with 4.9 percent in 1948 and 4.7 percent in 1941. Therefore, the relative importance of cacao in Brazil's foreign trade remains comparatively unchanged.

Shipments of 214 million pounds of cacao beans from Brazil to the United States in 1949 were almost double 1948 shipments of 118 million pounds. However, the United States was the destination for only 73 percent of Brazil's total cacao exports in 1949 compared with 75 percent of its total cacao exports in 1948.

The United Kingdom was the second leading market for Brazil's cacao in 1949. Exports of cacao beans from Brazil to the United Kingdom amounted to 19.7 million pounds in 1949, compared with 5.7 million in 1948 and 0.3 million in 1947. Other important destinations for Brazil's 1949 cacao exports were the Netherlands, Argentina, Italy, France, Belgium, and Canada.

BRAZIL: Exports of cacao beans by country of destination, calendar year 1949 with comparisons

Destination	Averages		1947 1/	1948 1/	1949 2/
	1935-39	1940-44			
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
America					
Canada	883	-	4,409	981	3,499
United States	187,586	195,500	143,748	118,064	214,018
Argentina	10,584	14,774	16,871	10,967	10,212
Chile	93	1,363	771	542	573
Uruguay	1,191	1,737	893	1,274	1,453
Other	2,388	822	4,246	266	-
Total	202,725	214,196	170,938	132,094	229,755
Europe					
Belgium	2,203	79	1,830	4,581	5,964
Czechoslovakia	121	-	3,282	2,756	1,107
France	1,796	72	-	-	6,614
Germany	27,491	2,866	-	-	1,676
Ireland	-	314	2,240	1,790	1,120
Italy	9,263	3,158	2,693	2,696	7,146
Netherlands	9,068	1,449	18,847	4,629	13,724
Switzerland	303	1,515	3,489	894	1,536
United Kingdom	859	192	251	5,739	19,717
Other	9,528	8,828	8,717	1,911	1,630
Total	60,632	18,473	41,349	24,996	60,234
Africa	197	135	3,002	274	65
Asia	244	250	2,347	663	257
Oceania	182	55	710	-	1,234
Grand Total	263,980	233,109	218,346	158,027	291,545

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

Comercio Exterior do Brasil and reports of Foreign Service officers.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

FIRST ORANGE AUCTION SINCE BEFORE WAR HELD IN U. K.

The first public orange auction in the United Kingdom since before the war was held May 9, according to William Kling, assistant agricultural American Embassy, London. Orange imports and distribution had been controlled by the Ministry of Food prior to that date.

The first consignment to be auctioned consisted of about 9,000 cases of Spanish oranges. Press reports stated these were sold for about £30,000 or about £ 3 to £ 3.5.0 a case (roughly 4d. per orange). At this wholesale price, the retail price was expected to be about 1s. 3d.--1s. 6d. per pound (17-20 cents.). The controlled price was 8d. per pound until May 7, when control was removed.

There has been some dissatisfaction by the retail fruit trade and consumers at the high prices, and prediction of cessation of buying if the price level is maintained. It may be expected that prices will fall when the bulk of crop is marketed and when the trade becomes accustomed to free market conditions. However, unless supplies increase, prices will generally average more than under control since demand was not satisfied at the controlled prices owing to rationing.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

BRISK WOOL MOVEMENT FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE 1/

The 1949-50 wool clip of the major producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere has moved into consumption channels at an unprecedented rate. Total exports for the season 2/ through March 31, 1950 were 1,524 million pounds compared to exports of 1,338 for the same period last year, an increase of 14 percent.

The United Kingdom with approximately 475 million pounds was the largest receiver and the United States with receipts of nearly 330 million pounds, was second. However, exports to the United States increased by a much larger percentage over last year than did those to the United Kingdom. Exports to Belgium, Germany, and Japan, for the period, also showed substantial increase over last year. Movement to Canada, France, Italy, and the U.S.S.R. was somewhat smaller from the Southern Hemisphere countries. Increase in the other major consuming countries, particularly the United States, Germany, and Japan, more than offset this decrease, however.

1/ A more extensive statement is contained in Foreign Agriculture Circular FW 2-50, available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

2/ Seasons begin July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

WOOL: Exports from Southern Hemisphere countries, 1949-50 season through March 1/ with comparison

(actual weight)

Principal countries of destination	Australia		New Zealand 2/		Union of South Africa		Argentina		Uruguay	
	1948-49	1949-50	1948-49	1949-50	1948-49	1949-50	1948-49	1949-50	1948-49	1949-50
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	58.3	102.2	14.8	16.5	14.1	22.3	53.0	149.8	29.6	37.8
United Kingdom	262.3	333.1	80.8	93.2	48.2	45.8	0.4	1.6	0.4	0
Canada	6.2	6.1	8.1	4.7	0.8	0.7	0	0.1	0.1	0
Continental Europe										
France	175.1	119.4	39.7	15.3	50.2	20.1	1.7	27.5	0.2	2.0
Belgium	69.9	94.1	6.4	5.4	19.4	17.3	5.2	6.0	4.5	5.1
Germany	8.5	45.7	7.5	14.1	14.1	19.8	4.2	5.7	10.2	3.6
Italy	85.1	44.1	2.3	2.8	21.8	7.1	3.4	7.7	10.2	3.5
U.S.S.R.	41.6	28.8	11.1	4.2	3/	0	1.6	0	1.9	0
Japan	12.8	47.4	0.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0.5	0	3.3
Others	59.8	71.6	53.7	52.1	12.2	11.9	13.5	17.1	10.9	2.2
Total	779.6	892.5	224.9	210.8	183.3	147.5	83.0	216.0	68.0	57.5

1/ Season begins July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay. 2/ July - February. 3/ Negligible, included with others.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
Compiled from official sources and reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers.

Australia and Argentina, the world's largest producers of wool, were the source of the large increase in exports over last year, while New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Uruguay showed an actual decrease from last year. The past marketing season has been favorable to the producing countries, high prices have prevailed over most of the season, particularly since devaluation, and record prices have been established in the last 2 months. Trade during the season has been unhampered from all countries, with the exception of Uruguay, where a strike of wool handlers virtually halted all shipping operations for several weeks.

Exports to the United States in 1949-50 have been greatest from Argentina, followed by Australia, Uruguay, the Union of South Africa and New Zealand in that order named. The proportion taken from each country, however, has not changed appreciably over last year.

The rate of movement this year has been such that very little wool remains in the primary producing countries and competition for small lots remaining may continue to be exceptionally keen in the months ahead until the new clip becomes available.

FATS AND OILS

HONG KONG TUNG OIL EXPORTS DROP IN FIRST QUARTER 1950

Hong Kong tung oil exports during January-March were 3,695 short tons against 8,014 in the same months of 1949. April and May exports to the United States (trade with other countries is not yet available) amounted to 2,920 tons compared with only 600 tons for the January-March quarter. The sharp decline in the first quarter of this year applied to most countries. Exceptions were Norway and the United States with increases of 31 and 5 percent, respectively.

Shipments were made to Japan for the first time in February, 363 tons, and increased to 410 in March because local exporters were granted a return exchange allocation of 60 percent instead of 40 percent on exports to that destination. It was believed, however, that the decline of the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar on Japan from HK $7 to about HK $6 would result in decreased shipments.

The Hong Kong tung oil market in March registered a 10 percent drop in price, attributable to reports of large supplies in the interior, availability of about 2,000 tons in Tientsin, and anticipated shipments from that port of 10,000 to 12,000 tons by the end of June. According to later information, Canton authorities decided to suspend exports temporarily to Hong Kong hoping to arrest falling prices and reduce stocks there.

HONG KONG: Tung oil exports by country of destination, January-March 1950 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of destination	1948	1949	January-March 1949	January-March 1950
Australia	1,754	1,360	346	256
Belgium	131	238	126	-
Borneo, North	12	12	3	3
Canada	109	31	31	-
Central America	-	2	-	-
China, North	660	-	-	1/
Denmark	174	437	336	222
Egypt	26	-	-	-
Finland	66	12	12	-
France	504	538	280	56
Germany	129	2,925	1,326	253
India	172	160	57	-
Indonesia	68	182	90	-
Ireland	-	18	-	-
Italy	69	129	-	84
Japan	-	-	-	773
Korea	50	-	-	-
Macao	2	2	-	1
Malaya, Federation of	62	75	16	9
Netherlands	929	835	278	208
New Zealand	253	180	39	17
Norway	1,276	1,130	152	199
Other British Commonwealth	68	-	-	3
Philippine Republic	22	6	-	-
Portugal	7	-	-	-
South Africa	215	257	97	-
Spain	38	41	41	-
Sweden	887	736	316	77
Switzerland	22	-	-	-
Thailand	15	25	-	8
United Kingdom	7,737	8,745	3,891	926
United States	10,229	8,586	569	600
Other	655	-	8	-
Total	26,341	26,662	8,014	3,695

1/ Less than .5 ton.

Compiled from official sources.

CANADA'S MARGARINE INDUSTRY EXPANDING RAPIDLY

Canadian margarine production is more than maintaining the rate established in 1949. During January-April 1950 the output was 34,900,000 pounds against 19,059,000 in the same months of last year and a total of 73,958,000 in 1949, the first year of production. According to trade information, margarine is supplanting butter in Canada to the extent of about 3,500,000 pounds per month. Creamery butter production has not decreased but stocks were considerably larger at the end of the first quarter of this year and also at the beginning of 1950 than on the corresponding dates of 1949.

Margarine stocks as of May 1, 1950, were reported (in 1,000 pounds) as follows: Atlantic Region 429, Ontario 2,088, Manitoba 389, Saskatchewan 140, Alberta 397, British Columbia 514, total 3,957.

CANADA: Margarine production, 1949 and January-April 1950

(1,000 pounds)

Month	1949	1950 1/
January	1,030	7,998
February	3,354	8,712
March	7,349	11,003
April	7,326	7,187
May	7,200	
June	6,972	
July	5,525	
August	7,287	
September	7,035	
October	6,779	
November	7,199	
December	6,902	
Total	73,958	34,900

1/ Preliminary.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

U. S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, April 1950 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, April 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 1/	January-April 1950 1/	April	
					1949 1/	1950 1/
Soybeans	1,000 bu.	2/ 4,793	23,361	5,420	4,609	1,612
Soybean oil:						
Refined	1,000 lbs.	3/ 6,467	4/211,499	21,401	41,937	2,845
Crude	1,000 lbs.		147,062	95,218	17,812	14,124
Coconut oil:						
Refined	1,000 lbs.	3,789	4,550	2,784	786	825
Crude	1,000 lbs.	10,442	13,888	4,475	598	2,179
Cottonseed	1,000 lbs.	3/	15,015	18,035	507	4,353
Cottonseed oil:						
Refined	1,000 lbs.	4,793	54,337	21,306	12,438	4,606
Crude	1,000 lbs.	1,515	62,272	54,270	3,757	20,451
Flaxseed	1,000 bu.	3/	3,107	1,109	707	104
Linseed oil	1,000 lbs.	1,280	3,829	3,532	1,218	194
Peanuts:						
Shelled	1,000 lbs.	3/ 452	4/349,294	50,020	32,022	26,996
Unshelled	1,000 lbs.		8,543	769	684	132
Peanut oil:						
Refined		3/5/ 325	24,636	3,707	4,763	420
Crude			42,344	22,646	1,359	0
Corn oil:						
Refined	1,000 lbs.	3/ 500	1,358	308	75	14
Crude	1,000 lbs.		773	81	63	11
Vegetable stearine	1,000 lbs.	3/	4,765	498	207	0
Vegetable tallow & wax	1,000 lbs.	3/	4/ 4,656	1,222	585	66
Fatty vegetable acids	1,000 lbs.	3/	39,541	16,024	6,616	6,502
Oleomargarine	1,000 lbs.	180	4/ 2,029	1,136	201	398
Cooking fats	1,000 lbs.	2,111	22,741	4,407	4,520	1,247
Lard	1,000 lbs.	165,636	613,698	223,245	92,304	34,873
Tallow:						
Edible	1,000 lbs.	409	24,983	2,237	5,151	613
Inedible	1,000 lbs.	2/ 1,552	4/365,685	113,451	53,104	30,265
Neat's foot oil	1,000 lbs.	792	629	259	79	101
Stearic acid	1,000 lbs.	568	9,810	1,899	1,232	641
Other animal fats and greases	1,000 lbs.	6,756	63,546	17,404	6,661	4,695
Fish oils excluding medicinal	1,000 lbs.	2,467	38,617	10,547	1,051	843

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Average of less than 5 years. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Revised. 5/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

CUBAN VEGETABLE OIL SITUATION HIGHLIGHTED BY DECLINING PRICES

Cuba's vegetable oil situation in 1949 was highlighted by declining prices, principally in response to larger world supplies of fats and oils, according to the American Embassy, Havana. Peanut production during the 1949-50 crop year approximated 8,750 short tons of unshelled nuts or about 22 percent less than in 1948-49 and the smallest since 1938-39. The comparatively small output was due primarily to reduced plantings. Only 43,000 acres were harvested compared with 67,000 the previous year and 86,000 in 1947-48. Acreage was reduced because farmers were dissatisfied with prices. Crushers felt unable to meet farmers' price demands and at the same time compete with imported vegetable oils. Poor germination of the Valencia type seed was also a contributing factor to the smaller output. About 7,000 tons of peanuts were crushed from which about 1,900 tons of oil were produced or almost 25 percent less than last year.

Vegetable oil consumption in the calendar year 1949 was slightly less than in 1948, but this decrease was more than offset by the increased consumption of animal fats--the result of the comparatively low prices of the latter.

Cuban imports of oleaginous seeds in 1949 were of little commercial importance. Imports of vegetable oils, however, amounted to over 15,000 tons compared with over 16,000 in 1948. Approximately 75 percent of the 1949 total imports originated in the United States.

Cuban peanut growers received an average of about $3.00 to $3.50 per quintal ($59 to $69 per short ton) for unshelled peanuts during the 1949-50 crop year. The general dissatisfaction with these prices encouraged the Cuban Government to establish a growers' floor price of $4.00 per quintal ($79) early in 1950. During the same period the wholesale price of domestic peanut oil declined from around 47-48 cents per libra (46-47 cents per pound) to about 37 cents (36 cents per pound). Wholesale prices on most other vegetable oils declined markedly in 1949 and early 1950.

The Cuban peanut industry may soon disappear unless some form of Government aid is enacted in the near future. Production during the 1950-51 crop year may be only about half as much as the low 1949-50 output. Locally blended soybean oil already dominates the medium-priced market and as soon as Spanish olive oil re-enters the market in volume it doubtless will take a larger share of the high-priced market. The average Cuban consumer will pay a high price for Spanish olive oil as long as he is able to do so, and in order to stay in the market, local peanut crushers will have to price their oil accordingly.

The resumption of olive oil imports from Spain likewise will adversely affect imports of soybean oil from the United States. According to the latest quotation, local olive oil prices will range from 45-55 cents per libra (44-54 cents per pound) depending on the size of the containers.

Over-all 1950 consumption of edible vegetable oils may approximate that of 1949. By far the largest share of the 1949 fats and oils requirements was met by imports of lard and rendered pork fat. Lard is not expected to be any less important in filling 1950 needs. Consequently, it is improbable that the demand for edible vegetable oils will increase.

NETHERLANDS FATS AND OILS SITUATION IMPROVES CONSIDERABLY

The fats and oils situation in 1949 in the Netherlands improved considerably over 1948, according to the American Embassy, The Hague. Domestic oilseed production increased by 77 percent--from 49,360 short tons to 87,150 tons with rapeseed accounting for 64,730 tons (29,570 in 1948), flaxseed 19,480 tons (16,580), and poppy seed 2,940 tons (3,210).

Fats and oils--vegetable, animal, and marine--from indigenous production amounted to 68,750 tons in 1949, or an increase of 68 percent over the 36,870-ton output of 1948 and 164 percent over 1947. Production from imported products was reported at 181,120 tons against 138,500 in 1948 and 118,170 in 1947. Thus over-all production of fats and oils, excluding butter, totaled 249,270 tons in 1949 compared with 175,390 and 144,220, respectively, the two previous years. About one-fourth of the total Netherlands oil crushing capacity of over 1 million tons was used during 1949, and output amounted to about 30 percent of prewar production.

Total imports of oil-bearing products were up 57 percent from 228,800 tons in 1948 to 359,170 tons in 1949. This improved import situation is extremely important for the Netherlands because it permits greater use of crushing facilities and provides by-products needed for cattle feed.

The most important oil-bearing product imported in both 1948 and 1949 was copra, the bulk of which came from Indonesia. Soybean imports, practically all of United States origin, totaled 56,660 tons in 1949 against only 6 tons in 1948. Flaxseed imports more than doubled--from 28,830 tons in 1948 to 68,770 tons in 1949.

Total 1949 imports of all oils amounted to 106,240 tons, an increase of 85 percent over the 57,470 tons of 1948. The United States supplied about 80 percent of the soybean oil and 70 percent of the cottonseed oil, but only 12.5 percent of the total fat imports.

The Netherlands exported 12,560 tons of oilseeds (rapeseed, flaxseed and poppy seed) in 1949 compared with 8,400 in 1948. Oil exports amounted to over 44,000 tons against 20,000 in 1948, an increase of 120 percent.

Consumption of fats and oils in terms of fat equivalent increased over 1948 by 35 percent.

Generally, prices during 1949 were lower than in the previous year.

Domestic production of oilseeds is expected to be somewhat higher in 1950 than in 1949. The 1950 seeded acreages of rape and flax were reported at 90,900 and 46,500 acres, respectively. May 1949 averages were 62,300 to rape and 50,000 to flax. It is also expected that larger supplies of imported oils and oil-bearing products will be available and at somewhat lower prices. Domestic consumption of oils and fats undoubtedly will continue to increase.

Effective April 24, 1950, a new regulation specifies that all margarine sold as containing vitamins must contain at least 20 international units of vitamin "A" per gram. The regulation was imposed to stop the practice of adding small unspecified amounts of vitamins and selling the product as "Vitaminized."

The catch of the Dutch whaling factory "Willem Barendsz" for the 1949-50 season is estimated at 14,600 tons of whale oil and 900 tons of sperm oil--down somewhat from the 19,300 tons of whale oil and 770 of sperm oil produced during the 1948-49 season.

Good experimental results have been obtained with the oilseed crop camomile (anthemis camilina sativa). This crop is reported to thrive on poor soils in the Netherlands and to produce 900 to 2,200 pounds of seed per acre. The loss from shattering has been slight and the oil content of the seed averages 33 percent. Extension officials believe camomile will find a definite place in areas where rape and flax are not adaptable.

CEYLON'S COPRA TRADE
ONE-THIRD OF LAST YEAR

Exports of copra and coconut oil from Ceylon during January-March 1950, reported at 15,770 long tons, copra equivalent, represent a decrease of nearly 70 percent from the 50,600 tons shipped in the comparable period of 1949.

Monthly copra shipments of 392 tons in January, 597 in February, and 110 in March totaled 1,099 tons against 10,709 during the 3-month period of 1949. Pakistan was the only purchaser. The drop in exports reflects the Government's policy of encouraging the local production of coconut oil in order to retain the coconut oilcake needed locally as cattle feed and to keep local mills in production and labor employed.

CEYLON: Copra and coconut oil exports,
January-March 1950 with comparisons

(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution				Coconut oil distribution			
	Average 1935-39	1949 1/	January-March		Average 1935-39	1949 1/	January-March	
			1949 1/	1950 1/			1949 1/	1950 1/
United States	1	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-	8,523	20	-	27
West Indies	-	-	-	-	881	-	-	-
Denmark	1,605	1,197	1,197	-	35	-	-	-
France	354	2,500	1,100	-	347	1,727	1,727	846
Germany	1,482	-	-	-	1,200	16,347	3,627	-
Greece	1,526	-	-	-	120	4	1	-
Italy	6,541	970	850	-	1,724	5,343	3,295	1,014
Netherlands	-	3,750	2,235	-	-	7,450	2,583	5,065
Norway	150	-	-	-	45	-	-	-
Switzerland	-	2,150	2,150	-	84	519	98	100
United Kingdom	420	-	-	-	14,160	40,025	8,900	150
Other Europe	4,423	500	500	-	9,441	112	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	146	98	60	25
India	42,553	6,777	931	-	10,769	3,585	1,040	307
Iraq	20	-	-	-	315	1,602	392	253
Pakistan	-	3,633	1,646	1,099	-	11,302	2,777	1,338
Palestine	-	-	-	-	15	41	19	2
Syria	60	100	100	-	164	80	35	25
Other Asia	360	2	-	-	2,406	232	15	63
Egypt	425	-	-	-	2,433	541	531	-
Union of South Africa	-	-	-	-	2,597	14	-	4
Other countries	7	-	-	-	3,578	142	34	24
Total	59,927	21,579	10,709	1,099	59,013	89,184	25,134	9,243

1/ Preliminary.

American Embassy, Colombo.

The local buying price of copra as published by the Colombo Brokers' Association during the first quarter of 1950 ranged from Rs. 185 per candy of 560 pounds ($156 per long ton) to Rs. 200 ($169).

Coconut oil monthly exports of 3,932 tons in January, 4,013 in February, and 1,298 in March, amounting to 9,243 tons, were approximately one-third of the 25,134 tons shipped during January-March 1949. The Netherlands took 5,065 tons or 55 percent of the total. The decrease is attributed to the minimum export prices which are so high that only a small percentage of current production is being sold. The local coconut oil price during this quarter was Rs. 1,225 per long ton ($259). The average f.o.b. price per long ton was Rs. 1,575 ($330). The price at which coconut oil now may be exported, as set by the Controller of Exports (Coconut Products) on May 23, 1950, was as follows per long ton f.o.b. Colombo:

	Rupees	Dollars
In bulk	1,600	$335.25
In drums of under 10 cwt.	1,850	387.64
In drums of 10 cwt. or over	1,815	380.30

Stocks on hand at the end of March were reported at 2,711 tons of copra and 3,815 of coconut oil.

The present export duties on copra and coconut oil per long ton are Rs. 150 ($31.43) and Rs. 243.75 ($51.07), respectively.

POPPY SEED PRODUCTION SHOWS DOWNWARD TREND

Total poppy seed production in countries reporting the cultivation of this oilseed crop is estimated at 67,000 short tons during 1949, indicating a downward trend from the 1948 output of 81,000 tons and the expanded production of recent years. Prewar production amounted to approximately 50,000 tons. Turkey's output of 20,000 tons accounted for nearly one-third of the total and Iran's 16,500 tons, for about one-fourth. European countries, including the Soviet Union, produced the remainder. Poppies have been cultivated for centuries in China and India but production is essentially for opium rather than seed.

POPPY SEED: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39, annual 1948-49
(Short tons)

Country	Average 1935-39 1/	1948 2/	1949 2/3/
Austria	4/ 1,476	1,086	1,213
Bulgaria	323	-	-
Czechoslovakia	4/ 12,137	-	-
France	1,235	3,350	2,205
Germany (Western)	-	11,795	8,929
Hungary	6,724	-	-
Netherlands	1,896	3,210	2,939
Rumania	1,492	-	-
Yugoslavia	2,436	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5/ 10,000	-	-
Iran	-	11,023	16,534
Turkey	11,000	22,970	19,906
Total 6/	50,770	81,140	67,330

1/ Prewar boundaries. 2/ Postwar boundaries. 3/ Preliminary.
4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ 1934 only.
6/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations - Fats, Oils and Rice Division. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service Officers, results of office research, and other information.

The United States imported 1,230 tons of poppy seed during January-March 1950, compared with 3,292 tons in 1949 (12 months). Over half the tonnage received during the first 3 months of this year came from Czechoslovakia. The Netherlands and Poland accounted for 85 percent of the 1949 imports.

Poppy seeds, which are white, brown, bluish gray or bluish black, contain from about 44 to over 50 percent of oil. The white seeds are considered to yield the finest oil. Sizeable quantities of oil are expressed in France and Germany. Cold-pressed oil is used chiefly for edible purposes, whereas hot-pressed oil, which could be refined for edible purposes, is used largely for making soap.

POPPY SEED: United States imports, 1948, 1949, and January-March 1950

(Short tons)

Country of origin	1948 1/	1949 1/	January-March 1950 1/
Argentina	11	0	0
Canada	28	16	0
Czechoslovakia	0	55	690
Denmark	15	25	0
Hungary	11	120	0
Iran	49	5	28
Italy	27	0	0
Netherlands	1,743	2,034	296
Poland	80	760	188
Tangier	0	0	1
Turkey	1,077	277	27
Total	3,041	3,292	1,230

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

ARGENTINE EXPORTS OF TALLOW AND LARD IN 1950 AT HIGHER RATE THAN IN 1949

Argentine exports of tallow and cattle fats in the first quarter of 1950 were up more than 40 percent from the comparable period of 1949, according to the American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Shipments totaled 13,201 short tons whereas for January-March 1949 the total was 9,296 tons.

Tallow, totaling 8,670 tons, accounted for 66 percent of all animal fats and oils (excluding lard) exported in the first quarter. Primer jus made up 28 percent. Stearine, red oil, and cattle fat totaling 784 tons made up the balance.

About 80 percent, or 10,379 tons, of the total quantity of tallow, cattle fats and oils went to European countries with Sweden, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Finland taking the major share. Substantial quantities were also exported to Morocco, Chile, and Colombia.

Exports of tallow and cattle fats and oils in 1949 were down about 40 percent from the 68,133 tons exported in 1948 when shipments were slightly greater than the prewar average.

ARGENTINA: Tallow and cattle-fat exports, January-March 1950
with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	Average 1935-39	1948	1949 1/	Jan.-March 1949 1/	Jan.-March 1950 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:					
Canada	7	6,380	-	-	-
Cuba	377	1,984	-	-	-
Mexico	11	-	-	-	-
Other	9,935	566	-	-	-
Total	10,330	8,930	-	-	-
South America	1,914	4,996	1,082	180	1,140
Europe:					
Belgium	2,974	469	14	-	332
Czechoslovakia	1,222	608	1,680	1,288	-
Finland	56	1,925	3,293	2,016	1,171
France	937	3,886	-	-	638
Germany	13,264	-	1,836	-	258
Italy	2,082	13	1,124	-	1,728
Netherlands	7,875	553	-	-	660
Poland	13	378	1,205	1,205	-
Spain	1,296	173	-	-	-
Sweden	1,695	-	-	-	2,594
Switzerland	1,133	481	902	-	968
United Kingdom	17,903	36,913	28,213	4,600	1,870
Other	2,212	1,272	-	-	110
Total	52,662	46,671	38,267	9,109	10,379
Japan	21	6,890	-	-	-
Morocco	-	-	-	-	1,682
Others	313	646	7	7	-
Grand total	65,240	68,133	39,356	9,296	13,201

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

Lard exports for the first quarter this year totaled 11,358 tons. This quantity was 7 times the tonnage exported in the first quarter of 1949, one-fourth greater than the total volume exported during 1949, and one-third greater than the annual prewar exports.

Virtually 100 percent of Argentina's exports of lard in the first 3 months of this year went to 4 European countries--Sweden, Austria, Finland, and the United Kingdom. Of this, Sweden alone took nearly 70 percent.

ARGENTINA: Lard exports, January-March 1950 with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	Average 1935-39	1948	1949 1/	Jan.-March	
				1949 1/	1950 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America	-	813	-	-	-
South America	685	2,725	774	583	3
Europe:					
Austria	-	-	657	-	1,976
Finland	-	583	-	-	1,052
Hungary	-	446	-	-	-
Italy	127	817	1,000	1,000	-
Poland	-	1,422	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-	-	7,716
United Kingdom	6,673	13,207	5,895	-	593
Other	919	184	674	46	12
Total	7,719	16,659	8,226	1,046	11,349
Others	163	27	19	-	6
Grand total	8,567	20,224	9,019	1,629	11,358

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS DROP SLIGHTLY IN APRIL

Exports of cotton from the United States in April totaled only 488,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (471,000 running bales), compared with 706,000 (686,000 running bales) in March. The decrease in export movement, however, is attributed mainly to the effect of a harbor strike at Houston, Texas, during part of March and April.

The total of 4,395,000 bales (4,224,000 running bales) for August-April 1949-50 is 18 percent higher than the 3,714,000 bales exported during a similar period a year ago. The cotton exported this season to countries eligible to purchase it with ECA funds amounted to 2.8 million bales or 64 percent of total exports to date, but 100,000 to 200,000 bales of this amount were purchased by these countries with funds derived from other

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1934-38 and 1939-43; annual 1947-48 and 1948-49; August-April 1948-49 and 1949-50

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country	Year beginning August 1				Aug.-Apr.	
	Averages		1947	1948	1948-49	1949-50
	1934-38	1939-43				
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	1/	3	74	53	35
Belgium-Luxembourg	147	43	53	152	126	162
Czechoslovakia	65	0	22	36	32	45
Denmark	35	5	3	30	24	26
Finland	35	11	27	35	28	3
France	589	154	216	676	510	621
Germany	579	4	232	504	389	521
Greece	2	2	1	12	5	29
Italy	430	12	70	652	484	551
Netherlands	86	34	35	195	147	201
Norway	13	6	3	17	11	6
Poland & Danzig	224	1	50	95	65	28
Spain	101	117	3	70	54	48
Sweden	93	53	6	2/	2/	23
Switzerland	2	14	3	38	38	37
United Kingdom	1,097	987	272	781	558	573
Yugoslavia	10	7	0	42	33	22
Other Europe	3/ 85	146	1	4/ 64	44	5/ 27
Total Europe	3,593	1,596	1,000	3,473	2,601	2,958
Canada	261	294	138	307	236	210
Chile	6/	5	2/	60	46	31
Colombia	17	9	1	53	35	39
Cuba	7	11	13	8	4	18
India	44	18	21	3	3	241
China	55	106	303	282	260	90
Japan	1,271	216	466	652	427	611
French Indochina	6/	14	4	8	8	6
Korea	6/	N.A.	59	34	29	33
Australia	5	20	11	0	0	0
Other countries	43	7	9	7/ 81	65	8/ 158
Total	5,296	2,296	2,025	4,961	3,714	4,395

1/ Included with Germany. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes 39 Portugal, 23 Soviet Union. 4/ Includes 28 Soviet Union, 14 Rumania, 6 Bulgaria, 6 Hungary. 5/ Hungary 20. 6/ If any, included in Other Countries. 7/ Includes 29 Hong Kong, 11 Palestine. 8/ Includes 98 Hong Kong, 18 Manchuria.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

sources. Exports of 611,000 bales to Japan, representing 14 percent of the total, were made under other types of United States Government aid and financing programs. Exports during the current season are still expected to be about 5.5 million bales of 500 pounds or roughly 5.3 million running bales.

There have been some cancellations of procurement authorizations for cotton to be purchased with ECA funds and shipped before June 15. Cancellations or withdrawals from the quotas to be moved by June 15 amount to about 100,000 bales for Germany and around 14,000 bales for Norway. The cancellations, however, probably will be nearly offset by larger shipments to Japan and the United Kingdom before the end of July.

Estimates based on ECA authorizations and information from other sources indicate that the quantities of cotton likely to be exported during May-July 1950 to some of the principal destinations are nearly 300,000 bales to Germany, 300,000 to Japan, 120,000 to France, 60,000 to India, and 50,000 to 75,000 to the United Kingdom. Most of the other countries except Italy and possibly China are believed to have already received a large proportion of their expected imports from the United States for 1949-50.

It is too early to estimate probable United States cotton exports in 1950-51, but stocks of old-crop cotton in foreign exporting countries are practically exhausted and the only appreciable increases in production expected this year are in Egypt, Mexico, and India. The Indian crop does not arrive on the market until late this year. A probable increase in production there is expected to be reflected almost entirely in higher domestic consumption with some reduction in imports but with little, if any, change in exports.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN KOREA INCREASING

The cotton textile industry in Korea has made a marked recovery during the current season with mill consumption during the early part of the season at nearly double the rate of a year ago. Consumption by mills for the first 8 months of the current season (August through March 1950) has been reported at 53,000 bales (480 pounds net), as compared to 47,000 bales over the entire 1948-49 season. There was some decline in consumption in January and February 1950, due to a shortage of raw cotton and electric power but consumption is still expected to reach 80,000 bales for the 1949-50 season.

Cotton production in South Korea in 1949-50 has been estimated at 81,000 bales. Most of the crop, however, is used in the household industry and very little reaches the cotton mills. The government established a goal of 27,500 bales to be collected for the mills from the 1949 crop, but due to a lack of incentive goods it is doubtful that more than 20,000 bales can be secured. This compares with 4,200 bales collected from the 1948 crop and 6,500 bales from the 1947 crop.

To make up this deficit in supplies for South Korean mills, cotton has been imported from the United States through the Economic Cooperation Administration. The ECA has authorized $10,370,000 for the purchase of cotton to be shipped this season. Of the 65,000 to 70,000 bales that can be purchased under this authorization, 32,500 had left the United States by May 1, 1950.

Accurate statistics on the quantity of raw cotton used in the homes are not available. In view of the demand for cotton products in South Korea, however, all the available cotton not collected for mills is apparently absorbed in the household industry. There is no evidence that any sizable quantities of cotton have been hoarded or stored up-country. Therefore, cotton consumption in the household industry in South Korea can be estimated at approximately 60,000 bales in 1949-50, as compared to an estimated 72,000 bales in 1948-49 and 80,000 bales in 1947-48.

During the 1940-1944 war years about 75 percent or 160,000 bales of Korea's cotton production was in what is now South Korea and 25 percent or 50,000 bales in North Korea. Very little information is available on North Korean production but it is believed to be around 40,000 bales. Most of this production is believed to be consumed in household industry, which would bring total household consumption near 100,000 bales for all Korea.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U. S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	6-8	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	(not	quoted)
Ashmouni, F.G.F	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	73.15	42.40
Karnak, F.G.F	"	"	"	67.15	38.92
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine	6-7	82.28 lbs.	"	77.25	28.32
289F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	79.25	29.06
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	81.75	29.97
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	6-8	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	4300.00	40.36
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	6-7	101.4 lbs.	Sol	1/ 387.00	25.36
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	470.00	30.79
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	"	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	200.00	32.90
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	available)
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	235.00	38.66
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	213.00	35.04
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	6-8	101.4 lbs.	Peso	231.00	26.33
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	33.45

Quotations of foreign markets sponsored by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal.

LATE NEWS

(Continued from Page 567)

The final official estimate places the 1949-50 cotton crop in Egypt at 1,796,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross weight), compared with the last previous estimate of 1,691,000 and a final estimate of 1,836,000 bales for 1948-49. The 1949-50 estimate of 768,000 bales for extra long-staple varieties (mostly Karnak and Menoufi) with fiber 1-3/8 inches and longer was 45 percent higher than the estimate of 531,000 for 1948-49. Production of Ashmouni and Zagora (staple length of both varieties is less than 1-1/4 inches) is estimated at 829,000 bales or 24 percent less than the 1,086,000-bale crop of 1948-49. There was little change in medium long-staple varieties (1-1/4 to 1-3/8 inches) from 189,000 bales in 1948-49 to 161,000 in 1949-50. The totals for both years include 30,000 to 40,000 bales of unclassified cotton. The acreage estimates of 1,496,000 acres for 1948-49 and 1,754,000 for 1949-50 were not changed.